

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /123 W

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R 111632Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MSOCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION ANTO

ERDA HQ WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6483

DISTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, US, UR

SUBJECT: CCD - US/USSR BILATERAL MDW MEETING, AUGUST 11, 1976

1. SECOND BILATERAL MEETING ON WMD WAS HELD 10:00 AM  
AUG 11 AT SOVIET MISSION (US-MARTIN, BUCHHEIM, BOWDEN,  
HECKROTTE); USSR-LIKHATCHEV, NAXARKIN, KASHIRIN, FOKIN,  
SURIKOV).

2. MARTIN STATED THAT US WANTED TO COOPERATE IN DISCUS-  
SIONS, BUT DIFFICULTY OF SUBJECT RAISED QUESTION OF  
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POLITICAL NATURE: THE US TOOK SERIOUSLY THE OBLIGATIONS

IN EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND WE WERE DISTURBED BY GDR REMARKS OF AUG 9 THAT BW CONVENTION DID NOT COVER SOME POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

3. BUCHHEIM, AFTER BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, THEN ASKED FOR SOVIET VIEWS ON REMARKS OF GDR EXPERTS. LIKHATCHEV SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE RESPONSE ON QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE AND LEAVE DETAILS TO EXPERTS. HE REPEATED GENERAL SOVIET LINE ON IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT ON WMD, AND IN COURSE OF THIS SAID THAT BW CONVENTION ONLY PROHIBITED WEAPONS THAT EXISTED AT TIME AGREEMENT CONCLUDED. THIS WOULD ALSO BE TRUE FOR CW. MWD AGREEMENT WOULD THUS COVER "NEW" WEAPONS, AND WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OTHER AGREEMENTS. LIKHATCHEV SAID EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING NOT COVERED BY PRESENT BW CONVENTION WOULD BE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR COMBINING SEVERAL "MILD" BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS TO PRODUCE SYNTHESIS OF A VERY POTENT NEW BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.

4. FOKIN PROVIDED THREE EXAMPLES OF WEAPONS WHICH HE SAID WERE NOT COVERED BY AGREEMENTS EXISTING OR BEING NEGOTIATED: (A) CATALYTIC CONVERSION OF ATMOSPHERIC OXYGEN TO OZONE; (B) CATALYTIC CONVERSION OF ATMOSPHERIC NITROGEN AND OXYGEN TO NITROGEN DIOXIDE; (C) CATALYTIC CONVERSION OF OZONE IN THE STRATOSPHERE OZONE LAYER TO OXYGEN TO MAKE A "HOLE" IN THE LAYER. THESE HE SAID WERE NOT "SUPPOSED" TO BE COVERED BY CW CONVENTION. HE THEN ADDED THAT SOVIETS DID NOT YET HAVE ANSWER AS TO WHETHER OR NOT USE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING AS WEAPON COVERED BY BW CONVENTION.

5. MARTIN ASKED IF ITEMS (A) AND (B) OF PARA 3, ABOVE, WOULD HAVE BEEN COVERED BY SOVIET PROPOSAL OF 1972 FOR A CW TEXT. LIKHATCHEV SAID NO.

6. MARTIN POINTED OUT THAT ITEM (C) OF PARA 3, ABOVE, ACKNOWLEDGED BY BOTH US AND USSR AS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE COVERED BY ENMOD CONVENTION. NO DIRECT RESPONSE.

7. BUCHHEIM ASKED WHAT WAS BASIS FOR SOVIET VIEW THAT  
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LIKHATCHEV BIOLOGICAL CONCEPT (PARA 3, ABOVE) AND ITEMS (A) AND (B) IN PARA 4 WERE NOT COVERED BY EXISTING AGREEMENTS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AMONG SOVIETS, FOKIN SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE RESPONSE LATER.

8. BUCHHEIM ASKED SOVIET EXPERTS TO EXPLAIN BASIS FOR CLAIM IN SOVIET WORKING PAPER THAT INFRA-SOUND AND FUEL-AIR EXPLOSIVES COULD BE BASIS FOR WMD. SURIKOV

IN RESPONSE REPEATED GENERAL LINE IN SOVIET WORKING PAPER, EMPHASIZING POTENTIAL HARM USE OF SUCH WEAPONS COULD CAUSE. ADDITIONALLY, HE STATED THAT COMPARABILITY OF EFFECTS OF NEW WEAPONS WITH TRADITIONAL WMD WAS ONE ELEMENT IN MAKING JUDGMENTS AS TO WHETHER NEW WEAPON WAS WMD. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, APPLY THIS PRINCIPLE IN ANY QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MANNER. FOKIN MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF EXCITING LOW-FREQUENCY SOUND WAVES AT ONE POINT ON EARTH AND FOCUSING ENERGY ON ANTIPODE BY USING EARTH SURFACE ATMOSPHERE AS WAVE-GUIDE.

9. MARTIN, IN CONCLUSION, SAID A MAJOR PART OF DISCUSSION DEALT WITH USE OF WORD "NEW". THE DISCUSSION REVEALED DIFFERENCES OF PERCEPTION WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE EITHER SIDE COULD ASSESS THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE ON WMD. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCOPE OF EXISTING TREATIES. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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